REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 10-29 are active in the case.

The Examiner is thanked for the courteous interview conducted on March 30, 2005 in which the issues in the case were clarified.

The substance of the interview is correctly recorded in the Interview Summary of March 30, 2005.

The specification is amended at various places to clarify that the material referred to on pages 4, 5, 6, 9 and 10 is the compound of formula (1) set forth on page 3 of the specification.

Claim 10 is amended to define X as C15-C28 linear or branched alkylene group or a C15-C28 linear or branched alkenylene group. Basis for this amendment may be found on page 3, line 5 from the bottom and Examples 24 and 25 of the specification. Claim 11 has been amended to limit the method to treating amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. Claim 12 has been amended to delete "claim" and add "chain" in its place. Claims 16 and 17 have been amended to recite X is a linear C15-C28 group. Basis for these this limitation is the same as that for the amendment to Claim 10. Claim 18 has been amended to delete "claim" and to replace it with "chain". No new matter has been added into the amended claims.

The objection to Claim 12 has been obviated by the deletion of "claim" and the substitution of "chain" therefor.

The rejection of Claims 10-29 as unpatentable over Borg in view of each of Girlanda-Yunges et al., Luu et al., Pruss and Rosen et al. is traversed.

Borg neither teaches nor suggests the use of the compound of the present claims for treating of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. The saturated and unsaturated branched fatty alcohols referred to by the Examiner in column 19, line 55 through column 21, line 53 do not teach or suggest the compound of the present claims.

The present claims, as amended, distinguish over Girlanda-Yunges et al. because the claims are now limited to X being C15-C28 linear or branched alkylene group or a C15-C28 linear or branched alkenylene group. Girlanda-Yunges et al. indicate on page 7740 the disappearance of neurite outgrowth with C15 and 16 and actually indicates that activity disappears completely and is replaced by neurotoxicity. Table 1 on page 28 of the specification indicates that compound 24, shown as having C15 for the X group demonstrates neurite extension effect as being remarkably effective, which is greater than 200%. Therefore, the claims distinguish over the combination of Borg and Girlanda-Yunges et al. Luu et al. does not teach or suggest the use of the compound of the present claims for treatment of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, as in the present claims. Pruss is the only reference specifically directed to the treatment of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, but the reference uses a compound which is completely different from the compound of the present claims.

Finally, Rosen et al. is merely cited for the showing that mutations in superoxide dismutase gene are associated with familial amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, but the reference does not teach or suggest the use of the compound of the present claims for treating amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

For the above-discussed reasons, it is submitted that Claims 10-29 distinguish over the combination of references.

It is submitted that Claims 10-29 are allowable and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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